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The Director of Contral Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Dave Durenberger, Chairman Select Committee on Intelligence United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

At my Senior Management Conference which you attended on 27 February, we discussed the role that you and the other members of the Oversight Committee could play in protecting and enhancing the image of the Intelligence Community in the eyes of the public by responding to exaggerated, unwarranted. and untrue charges by the media.

I shall, of course, continue to speak out when I consider it appropriate. As Director of Central Intelligence, I can be expected to do so. It would probably be even more convincing if members of our Oversight Committees spoke out publicly in our behalf on charges in the media which you know to be unfounded or biased. This would be particularly effective since the Oversight Committees are in a position to state that they are kept fully and currently informed of the activities of the Intelligence Community and are therefore in a position to know when charges have no basis in fact or are biased. Such a role in the defense of the Intelligence Community is, in fact, a logical function of the Committees' oversight responsibility.

I should like to urge you to take the lead in this defense of the Community and to support other members of your Committee's doing the same. I shall of course be pleased to provide whatever support you may need in carrying out this role, including advice as necessary for the protection of classified information and intelligence sources and methods. I look forward to talking with you concerning specific instances in which your efforts would be most helpful.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

All portions of the letter are UNCLASSIFIED